

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

23 September 1993

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes:

29 July 1993

B. Dates of next meetings:

21 October 1993

18 November 1993

C. Confirmation of discussion of Article 5 CFR 2635, Fulfilling Ethics Training.

D. Korean War Veterans Memorial sculpture; inspection report.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Department of Agriculture

CFA 23/Sept/93-1, National Arboretum,
New York Avenue at Bladensburg Road, N.E.
Bonsai Pavilion addition. Design development.
(Previous: CFA 23/Jul/92-6.)

B. Department of Veterans Affairs

CFA 23/Sept/93-2, Washington, D.C. Medical
Center, First Street and Michigan Avenue, N.W.
Child Development Center. Preliminary design.

C. Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. CFA 23/Sept/93-3, Ft. Myer, Virginia.
Building 246. Renovation of barracks.

2. CFA 23/Sept/93-4, Ft. Myer, Virginia.
Logistics Support Facility. Design
development. (Previous: CFA 21/Jan/93-4.)

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 23 September 1993

C. Department of the Army,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

3. CFA 23/Sept/93-5, Ft. Myer, Virginia. Vehicle Maintenance Facility. Design development. (Previous: CFA 21/Jan/93-5.)
4. CFA 23/Sept/93-6, Walter Reed Army Medical Center. New guardhouse and realignment of the Butternut Street entrance. Preliminary design.

D. Department of Defense

1. CFA 23/Sept/93-7, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Screening for existing gates and guardhouse.
2. CFA 23/Sept/93-8, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Temporary construction access for interior renovation.

E. District of Columbia Department of
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 93-104, 3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy. New chancery building. Revised concept design. (Previous: CFA 29 July 1993.)
- b. S.L. 93-108, 2610 Rock Creek Drive, N.W.
S.L. 93-109, 2801 Normanstone Dr. N.W.
S.L. 93-110, 2815 Normanstone Dr. N.W.
Woodland Limited Partnership. Three new houses and landscaping. Permit.
(Previous: S.L. 93-48, CFA 18 February 1993.)
- c. S.L. 93-107, 201 17th Street, N.W., Organization of American States, "La Casita". Alterations to carriage house. Concept design.
- d. S.L. 93-123, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, S.W. Sign program. Concept design.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 23 September 1993

E. District of Columbia Department of
Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

e. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix II.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 93-112	1706 Crestwood Drive, N.W. George and Pearl Dalley Residence	Rear addition and alterations - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition and alterations to rear of property as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 17 September 1993. New work improves on the quality of previous work built without Commission's approval.

S.L. 93-113	818 15th Street, N.W. U.S. Government American Deli	Sidewalk cafe - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sidewalk cafe as shown in supplemental information received and dated 16 September 1993.

S.L. 93-114	3100 Whitehaven Street, N.W. Trustees for Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies	Relocation of condensing units - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed relocation of condensing units to exterior perimeter of building, screened with landscaping and fences as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 27 August 1993.

S.L. 93-115 HPA. 93-537 PADC 93-15	1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Ave. Allstars Ltd. Part. The Evening Star Building Planet Hollywood	New entrance on 11th Street - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed new entrance on the 11th Street side of the Evening Star Building.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 93-117	100 F Street, N.W. CSX Inc. Parking lot	Chain link fence - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed 6' high chain link fence along F Street side of parking lot.

S.L. 93-120	441 G Street, N.W. General Services Administration General Accounting Office Building	Handicapped access ramp - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed handicapped access ramp. Working drawings conform to previously approved design. See attached letter dated 31 May 1990.

S.L. 93-121	2320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The Republic of Korea Consular building	Additions and alterations - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed additions and alterations to consular building. Working drawings conform to previously approved concept. See previous Action (S.L. 93-66). Materials should match existing materials.

S.L. 93-124 HPA. 93-579	441 4th Street, N.W. D.C. Government George's	Sign - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sign on panel above door which conforms to previously approved sign scheme. See previous Action (S.L. 93-96).

S.L. 93-125	2522 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Saks Jandel, Inc. Watergate	Signs and alterations - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed uniform sign scheme for retail in this part of the Watergate complex. Working drawings conform to previously approved design. See previous Action (S.L. 93-82).

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 93-35 HPA. 93-150	1666 33rd Street, N.W. Ghazala Ommaya Cafe Samovar	Sign - permit
ACTION: Recommend <u>AGAINST</u> issuance of permit for proposed sign. Information submitted January 1993 was insufficient for appropriate review. The applicant failed to provide supplemental material. Resubmit permit application for review when ready.		
O.G. 93-122 HPA. 93-459	1000 29th Street, N.W. Marriott Residence Inn	Awning - permit
ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed awning as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 12 August 1993.		
O.G. 93-129 HPA. 93-476	1527 35th Street, N.W. Larry Lawrence Residence	Rear addition on second floor - conceptual
ACTION: Returned without Action. Case superseded by case OG. 93-150.		
O.G. 93-136 HPA. 93-502	1015 Wisconsin Avenue Washington Circle Theaters Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Sign - permit
ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sign.		
O.G. 93-137 HPA. 93-518	1077 30th Street, N.W. National Catholic Ed. Assoc. James Place Condominiums	New window openings - permit
ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed new window openings which will match existing details.		

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 93-138	1068 31st Street, N.W.	Sidewalk cafe
HPA. 93-519	Esther B. Davis Ristorante Piccolo	with planters - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sidewalk cafe.

O.G. 93-139	1521 31st Street, N.W.	Rear addition
HPA. 93-520	Marianne Means Residence	of elevator shaft - permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is not visible from public space. Refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

O.G. 93-140	1259 Wisconsin Avenue	Raze garage
HPA. 93-526	Michael Noufal Noufal Hair Power, Inc.	at rear - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed razing of existing garage structure at rear of property in coordination with approved concept for an underground addition. See previous Action (O.G. 93-128).

O.G. 93-141	1232 30th Street, N.W.	Rear addition -
HPA. 93-534	Myrna Alexander Residence	revised concept

ACTION: No objection to revised concept design which conforms to Commission recommendations. Submit permit application working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 93-142	1313 Wisconsin Avenue	Alterations to
HPA. 93-536	Germar Properties Commercial	storefront - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to existing building front. Working drawings conform to approved concept design. See previous Action (O.G. 93-113).

23 September 1993

APPENDIX II

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 93-143	3100 P Street, N.W.	Rear addition -
HPA. 93-540	Thomas & Ghislaine Crema Residence	permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed one story rear addition which conforms to approved concept design. See previous Action (O.G. 93-87). Note is made that approval extends to peaked roof alternative ONLY.

O.G. 93-144	3405 Prospect Street	Basement exit
HPA. 93-554	Ed Emes Residential	door and walk - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed basement exit door and access walk.

O.G. 93-145	3327 Q Street, N.W.	Rear addition -
HPA. 93-555	Mary Pat Fox Residence	permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed one story rear addition. The concerns of adjacent neighbors have been carefully considered and reasonably addressed by the applicant. Working drawings conform to approved concept design. See previous Action (O.G. 93-72).

O.G. 93-146	3417 P Street, N.W.	Brick garden wall
HPA. 93-556	Susan E. Trees Residence	- permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed brick garden wall which includes retention of existing line of deciduous trees.

O.G. 93-147	1217 Potomac Street, N.W.	Rear additions
HPA. 93-557	Alexander Meeraus Residence	- conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case superseded by case O.G. 93-153.

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 93-148	3301 N Street, N.W.	Replacement windows and alterations - permit
HPA. 93-558	Paul & Rosie Homan Residence	

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations and window replacements as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 10 September 1993. Recommend against introduction of stucco.

O.G. 93-149	3211 R Street, N.W.	Skylights - permit
HPA. 93-559	Arthus Levitt Residence	

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is not visible from public space. Refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

O.G. 93-150	1527 35th Street, N.W.	Rear addition, second floor - permit
HPA. 93-563	Larry Lawrence Residence	

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition to second floor at rear of existing residence, which is to include new plant material for screening, as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 9 September 1993.

O.G. 93-152	1258 Wisconsin Avenue	Alterations to windows at rear - revision to permit
HPA. 93-568	The Jenco Corporation The GAP	

ACTION: No objection to revision of permit to allow filling-in of existing windows at rear of commercial structure. Openings to be closed will be indicated by a 2-inch recess as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 16 September 1993.

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APPENDIX II

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 93-153	1217 Potomac Street	Rear additions -
HPA. 93-569	Alexander Meeraus Residence	permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed additions to rear of existing residence. Current submission complies with previously approved design. See previous Action (O.G. 92-14).

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

23 September 1993

The meeting was convened at 10:15 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., after a tour of project sites.

Members present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. George E. Hartman, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Joan Abrahamson
Hon. Adele Chatfield-Taylor
Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark
Hon. Robert A. Peck
Hon. Susan Porter Rose

Staff present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Mr. José Martínez-Canino

National Capital
Planning Commission
staff present:

Mr. Patrick Tribe

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the minutes of the 29 July 1993 meeting.
Mr. Peck asked that a correction and further clarification be made to his statement regarding a previous involvement with the Shoreham Building (S.L. 93-90, 93-91), so that it would read: "Mr. Peck said he would like to state for the record that he had once, in the past, consulted with someone who was considering buying the building and changing the interior floors, but had had no further relationship with that client, and, in fact, the client had not purchased the building." The change was subsequently made, and with this exception, the minutes were approved as written.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

21 October 1993
18 November 1993

C. Confirmation of Article 5 CFR 2635, Fulfilling Ethics Training. The Secretary commented on the new ethics requirement that all special government employees, including the Commission members, receive an hour's instruction in the ethics regulations, reporting requirements, etc.; he said that had been completed in a session prior to the meeting.

D. Korean War Veterans Memorial sculpture; inspection report. Staff member Sue Kohler showed slides of the figures as the Commission had seen them in the office of Cooper/Lecky, architects, in April, and then others taken at the 28 July mock-up on the site, when representatives from the agencies involved, including the chairman of the Commission, determined that a figure height of about seven feet seemed the most satisfactory. (See Minutes, 29 July 1993.) Ms. Chatfield-Taylor commented that the tall grass on the site formed a very effective base for the figures, and she hoped some of that feeling of a natural terrain could be retained; Mrs. Rose agreed. Mrs. Kohler then showed slides taken by the Secretary when he inspected new maquettes at the studio of the sculptor, Frank Gaylord, in Barre, Vermont, on 17 September. She introduced Mr. Atherton to give the members his views of the progress made.

Mr. Atherton said he was encouraged by what he had seen, and thought the figures had taken on a stronger relationship to each other and projected shades of meaning not seen before. He said they were about 30 inches high, about 2 1/2 times the size of the original maquettes and gave a good idea of what the finished product would be. He recalled the earlier schemes, where the figures were standing in rushing water and there was a great deal of action, and the subsequent revisions with the windblown ponchos, and he said this time there was a new and overriding sense of uncertainty and questioning in the figures as they looked from side to side, and a tension among them that had not existed in the other schemes. He commented particularly on the effectiveness of the first figure the visitor would see, on its relationship with both the visitor and the other figures. Mr. Atherton said he thought they were ready to go to the foundry, where full-sized models would be developed to about 90 percent of the final version. At this point the sculptor would complete the facial features and other details, and the figures would then be looked at again by him or someone else representing the Commission before the final castings were made. Mr. Atherton then asked architect Kent Cooper for his comments.

Mr. Cooper agreed with Mr. Atherton's observations on the changes that had taken place in the figures. He observed that this was not a heroic group of soldiers, but a group in distress. He said that taking them up to 30 inches exposed shortcomings--distortions, expressions that were not right, and a lack of drama--and that the whole group had been reworked. He said the next step, after the foundry contract had been awarded, would be to set up full-scale models in an indoor space so that the true relationship between the figures could be perceived. He explained the steps in the casting and finishing process, saying that the stainless steel castings would ultimately be set outside so that they could be observed and worked on in a variety of light and atmospheric conditions. He said anyone from the Commission would be most welcome to see the figures at any of these stages.

The Chairman commended Mr. Cooper on the progress that had been made, adding that he hoped that the sketchy quality could be maintained as the figures got larger, and that the sculptor would not be tempted to make them overly detailed, a concern that Mr. Peck had expressed several times. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor said she was very impressed with the progress, and she hoped that some attention would be paid to keeping the ground plane as naturalistic as the sculpture; she said she was concerned about the hard-edged juniper. Mr. Cooper said the variety they would be using would not be hard-edged, but one with a spreading, arching habit.

Mrs. Clark noted that Mrs. Kohler had mentioned that there would be a diversity in the faces, and she wanted to be sure that would be the case since the maquettes seemed more or less generic. Mr. Cooper said Mr. Gaylord did not want to work on the faces until he had full-scale models, although he would prepare some half-scale head models in his studio to study facial composition. Mr. Cooper said he understood that the Commission wanted the faces to retain an impressionistic quality, and although he thought there needed to be some representation of age and youth and ethnicity, he wanted to avoid portraits and concentrate on the effect of the whole.

The Chairman said he thought the direction the work was taking had been well received; he noted that this was an interim report and that no vote was required.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Department of Agriculture

CFA 23/SEP/93-1, National Arboretum, New York Avenue at Bladensburg Road, N.E. Bonsai pavilion addition. Design development. (Previous: CFA 23/JUL/92-6.) Staff member

Jeffrey Carson showed a master plan for the bonsai complex and said that the addition to be reviewed, which would include the Chinese and International pavilions, would complete the complex. Mr. Carson introduced Mary Ann Orlando, executive director of the National Bonsai Foundation, who then introduced H. William Merritt, a member of the foundation, to begin the presentation. Mr. Merritt reviewed the growth of the arboretum's bonsai collection, noting the centennial gift of fifty bonsai from the government of Japan, a 1981 gift of penjing from the government of China (which would be housed in the new pavilion), and the group of American bonsai, for which a pavilion had been built in 1990. In 1992 two glasshouses and a working greenhouse had been added. Mr. Merritt said that in addition to the Chinese pavilion, the new proposal would include an international pavilion which would be devoted to educational activities and a display area. He said they had received donations and grants for the new construction but needed further funds to complete it.

Architect Jay Tang began the discussion of the design. He said it was based on the approved master plan and would improve the circulation throughout the complex as well as add new spaces; he noted that a koi pond and tea house would be presented later. He said the materials would match the existing--concrete block units covered with stucco and dark-colored trim. Mr. Tang then asked landscape architect Peter Liu to give the members more detailed information.

Mr. Liu said the Chinese pavilion would have a simple decorative motif from the Ming dynasty, possibly a green and orange cloud motif. It would be entered through two courtyards, with a moon gate and small garden. Mr. Liu showed a plan, pointing out the location of the new additions and discussing the circulation pattern. He also showed elevation drawings, but said these were not current and he was in the process of making changes to the exterior design. He explained that the pavilions were basically roofless, as the plants were grown outdoors, but that the Chinese section would have a removable roof to accommodate the specimens that needed winter protection.

Mrs. Rose asked if the roof would be an accordion-type structure; Mr. Liu said he was not sure, that various possibilities were being studied. Mr. Hartman also had some questions about the roof profiles; he thought the key to a successful design was to keep the structure as much as possible a series of walls. In answer to Ms. Abrahamson's question, Mr. Liu said the floor surface in all the pavilions was gravel, but they were considering precast concrete pavers for the Chinese pavilion and the exhibit areas. There was some further discussion about elements that had not been clearly understood, and then the general concept design was

unanimously approved, with further development to be submitted later. Exhibit A

B. Department of Veterans Affairs

CFA 23/SEP/93-2, Washington, D. C. Medical Center, First Street and Michigan Avenue, N. W. Child Development Center. Preliminary design. Staff member José Martínez recalled that the Commission had reviewed a plan for a temporary trailer installation for this facility in October 1991; he said it had never been put in place, and the Medical Center now had a design for a permanent structure to house the child development center. He introduced architect Bob Dunning from Cross, Dunning & Associates.

Mr. Dunning noted the presence of representatives from La Petite, the organization that would run the facility, and from the Army's Corps of Engineers, in case the members had questions for them. He pointed out the location of the development center on an aerial photograph, noting the proximity of the McMillan Reservoir and a residential neighborhood. He said the siting had been partially determined by the utility lines along Michigan Avenue and the Army's requirement for parking on the site; he pointed out the concentric parking arranged around the medical center complex. He added that additional trees for screening had been added to the landscaping plan after review by NCPC. Mr. Dunning said he had placed the development center at an angle to First Street and Michigan Avenue so that it could relate better to the main building. In plan it was arranged with a central corridor flanked by classrooms which opened out onto side play yards. He said the area would be enclosed by a black chain link fence, and in response to Mrs. Clark's question, said the entrance would be from First Street, not from Michigan Avenue. Mrs. Rose asked about a drop-off entrance; Mr. Dunning said it was the policy of La Petite not to provide one, but to require that parents park and bring the child into the building.

Mr. Peck thought the building should respond to the street system and be sited parallel to First Street. The Chairman was also bothered by the orientation, and by the length of the roofline on the east elevation; he thought the addition of cupolas and dormers might help break it up. Vice-Chairman Hartman thought the building was actually larger than it looked on the drawings, and that it appeared the only thing that had generated the siting was the parking lot. His suggestion was to break up the building into a series of wings that came together, making it more like a village; this would make it easier to site than a single building, and would have the added advantage of separating the children by age. He added that the relationship to the McMillan Reservoir should also be considered, that the siting and design should not

detract from this very important spot. A representative from La Petite said this was their standard form of building, that the floor plan and shape facilitated supervision of the children, and they thought that was the most important consideration. The members thought unanimously, however, that a better design could address the supervision question just as well; they voted to disapprove the project as submitted.

Exhibit B

(The agenda order was changed and project II.E.1.a. discussed next.)

E. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 93-104, 3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy. New chancery building. Revised concept design. (Previous: CFA 29 July 1993.) Mr. Carson noted for the record that the Commission had visited the site prior to the meeting to see the building staked out and review the existing setting and neighboring structures. He then introduced the ambassador from Italy to the United States, Boris Biancheri.

Ambassador Biancheri said the design team had been working very hard for the last month trying to address the concerns of the Commission; an effort had been made to make the building more friendly and suitable to the residential character of the neighborhood without radically changing the design. He said new models had been built, noting that they had been brought in for the meeting, and he thought they would make the scale clearer. The color of the building had also been made darker, in answer to the Park Service's request.

The Chairman thanked Ambassador Biancheri for his interest and for coming to the meeting, and the members then left the table to look at site and building models. There were comments and questions for the architect, Piero Sartogo, about the changes he had made to the building, its relationship to the park and to neighboring structures, with the Chairman observing that the cornice line of the Brazilian embassy residence across Whitehaven Street looked higher on the model than that of the proposed Italian chancery.

Mr. Sartogo said he had been trying to make subtle changes that would meet the Commission's concerns but keep the character of the building. He discussed changes to the main facade, parallel to Massachusetts Avenue, pointing out first

the enlargement of the recessed corner at the far end to make the contrast less dramatic and make the wall appear shorter. Several windows near this corner had been grouped and slightly recessed, and for symmetry a new vertical window had been placed near the street corner. Windows at the lowest level had been enlarged slightly to lessen the fortress-like appearance. A window and three new recesses had been added to the park facade, to break up the mass, and a reversing of the perspective in the fenestration on the west facade, so that it would diminish toward the park, made that wall look shorter and less formidable. Mr. Sartogo said this had actually been the intention originally, but in the rush to get the first model completed, it had been done incorrectly.

Changes had also been made to the landscaping. The terraced gardens had been removed, and in their place was a natural grouping of large trees. Mr. Sartogo also reported that an easement would be granted to the Park Service along "Lovers' Lane" at the eastern boundary of the property. Slides were shown of the model, with Mr. Sartogo commenting on changes that had been made. He said the design of the business entrance was still in the development phase, but it would be more transparent than shown previously. He noted the drop of about 12 feet at this point from the Whitehaven Street sidewalk to the entrance. He said there would be an overlook with a railing, and that the retaining wall below would receive some kind of special treatment--ornamentation and plant material, or perhaps a niche for sculpture.

Landscape architect Rod Mercer reported that he had been working with the Park Service on the color of the building and the setback from the park, as well as making a list of the plant material that was indigenous to the area. He said the new landscaping would be visually more open and wooded than the previous scheme, which had recalled the gardens of an Italian villa. Existing grades and vegetation would be retained as much as possible, and additional evergreen vegetation added to help screen the building in the winter months. He said the black aluminum fence running around the property would be 6 to 8-feet high, and would be in the wooded area; it would be set back an appropriate distance from "Lovers' Lane". He said final details of the scenic easement would be worked out between the Park Service and the Italian government. Mr. Mercer pointed out the new paths that would run around the building in a ribbon pattern, formed by using different tones of pea gravel, and noted also that all the surface parking, formerly along the Whitehaven Street side, had been removed.

The Chairman said he was concerned about what would happen to the existing wooded character during construction; he said that whatever was lost would have to be replaced with



21. S.L. 93-104. Proposed new
Italian Chancery, design

large caliper specimens so that the vision of coming upon this building in the woods would not be lost. Vice-Chairman Hartman said he was afraid the underground parking construction would change the water table and affect the growth of trees.

Ms. Chatfield-Taylor thought the change from the hard-edged landscape elements to a more naturalistic look was good, but she wondered if Mr. Sartogo had gone too far in making changes to the building. She commented that the Commission's primary interest was in the urban design aspect, and she thought Mr. Sartogo could be given some leeway in the building design details. She was particularly concerned about adding more windows to the Massachusetts Avenue facade. The Chairman agreed, saying it had become almost too regular. Mr. Peck said that he had liked the corner buttress effect and the original window pattern. Mr. Sartogo said the model might be giving the wrong impression, although he said he also preferred the strong corners. Chairman Brown said the important thing was to balance the fortress and office building impressions, and he thought the Italian villa concept helped do this. The Vice-Chairman said he liked the added layering and articulation, but he thought Mr. Sartogo should be left to work out the details as he preferred. Mrs. Rose said she was pleased with the changes, particularly in the landscaping. Mrs. Clark asked what had happened to the outdoor theatre seen in the original landscape plan; Mr. Sartogo said it had been removed because it did not seem to fit in with the new, more informal plan.

There was no further discussion, and the concept design was approved for further development, subject to the comments made. Exhibits C, C-1

(The agenda order was again changed and item II.E.1.c. discussed next.)

c. S.L. 93-107, 201 17th Street, N.W., Organization of American States, "La Casita". Alterations to carriage house. Concept design. Mrs. Kohler introduced this project, saying that the carriage house was all that remained of one of Washington's finest early 19th century residences, the Van Ness mansion, designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe. She said the small building was a Category II landmark in the District of Columbia and eligible for the National Register. She recalled its history, saying that when the mansion and stables had been demolished for erection of the Pan American Union building, c. 1907, the carriage house had been moved a short distance to the corner of 18th and C streets and converted for office use by the Pan American Union (now OAS).

She said the current proposal involved extensive interior remodeling, and also exterior alterations that would restore the building, as far as practical considering the change in use, to what the architects, Notter & Associates, thought was its original appearance. She added that there were no extant Latrobe drawings, and the only known sketches and photographs, which did not show all facades, dated from the turn-of-the-century, shortly before the mansion was demolished. These showed a tall, thin octagonal cupola which the architects were proposing to recreate, although an alternate--keeping the existing low, square, louvered cupola--was also shown on the drawings. Mrs. Kohler then introduced architect George Notter to discuss his proposal in more detail.

Mr. Notter first introduced Flavio Villavincencio from the OAS, who talked about the need for renovation of the main building and said he expected to work with the Commission and Mr. Notter on that project in the near future. Then Mr. Notter described the work to be done on the old carriage house, using drawings and two models. He said he believed, on the basis of an 1893 photograph which he showed to the members, that Latrobe had designed the tall cupola existing at that time, and he noted that there was still evidence of the octagonal base on which it rested. He said he had consulted Jeffrey Cohen, editor of the Latrobe papers in Philadelphia, who felt that a cupola of that proportion could have been the work of Latrobe, citing principally the tall, thin turrets on the facade of Baltimore Cathedral and a tall cupola on the Pittsburgh Arsenal, both works by Latrobe. Mr. Cohen also thought that the scalloped wood edging on the eaves, visible in the photograph, could have been used by Latrobe to give the building a rustic appearance. He cited Latrobe's Gothic Revival house, Sedgeley, in Philadelphia. In his letter to Mr. Notter, Mr. Cohen also commented that, personally, he would leave the large window on the west facade intact, rather than leaving only the lunette and putting a large, stable-type door below, as Mr. Notter planned. Mr. Notter said he would consider this and other suggestions Mr. Cohen made regarding the door and window openings.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Kohler for her comments. She said she and Mr. Carson had been bothered by the tall, thin proportions of the cupola in relation to the square, severely classical building with its monumental arches, and by the way it sat on its base, too far in from the edge; she also found the scalloping incongruous and of the wrong period. She had also talked to Mr. Cohen but did not find his comparisons relevant because of the vast differences in style and building type. She had consulted another Latrobe scholar, Ford Peatross, curator of the Architecture, Design and Engineering Collections at the Library of Congress. Mr. Peatross said he was familiar with the building and the late 19th-century



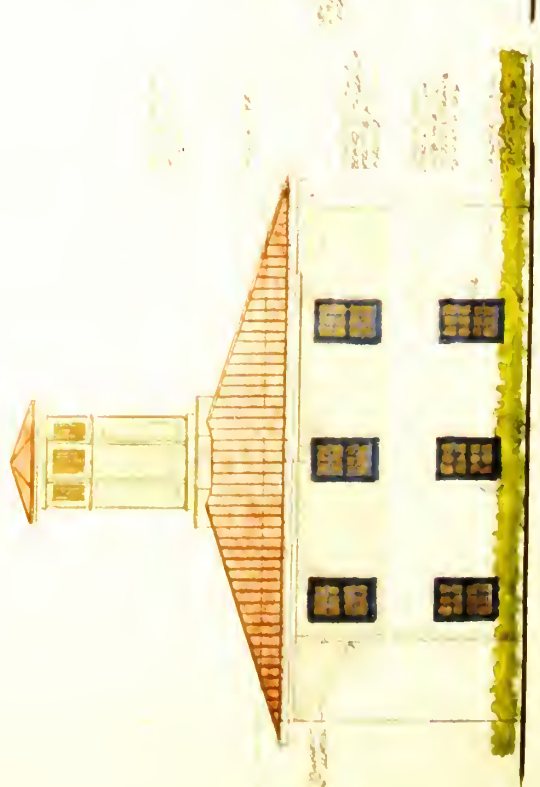
22. S.L. 93-107. OAS, La Casita.
Latrobe stables, current
condition. 201 17th Street



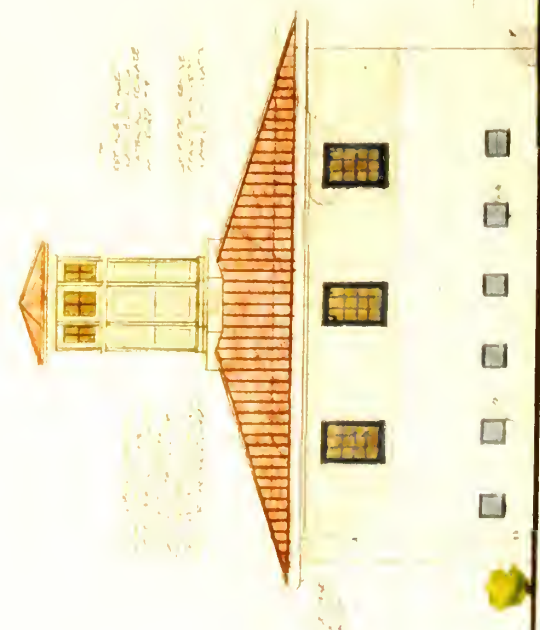
WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



23. S.L. 93-107. OAS, La Casita.
Labtrobe stables, proposed
renovation

photograph, and did not think Latrobe could have designed either the cupola or the crude scalloping. Mrs. Kohler suggested that both elements were closely related to the picturesque details used by A. J. Downing in the 1840s, and as the estate was sold after General Van Ness's death in 1846, it was possible that the new owner added them.

There was general agreement among the members that these elements did not look right. The Chairman thought that since the building's landmark status derived from its design by Latrobe, and since there was no conclusive evidence that the cupola and scalloping were part of his design, it would be better to leave the existing cupola, which was already close to ninety years old, and not add the scalloping. If it were proved in the future that these details were indeed by his hand, they could then be reconsidered.

Mr. Hartman thought it would be interesting to pursue further the dating of the various pieces of wood in the cupola area, but he, too, thought the cupola in the photograph looked strange, as did the scallops. Ms. Chatfield-Taylor commented on how the approach to historic preservation had changed in the past twenty-five to thirty years, and she said her approach now would be to do as little as possible and let the familiar remain.

The concept design was approved in general, with Mr. Notter being asked to use the alternate design for the cupola--repairing and painting the existing--omit the scalloping along the eaves, and give further study to changes in the window and door openings. Exhibit C

(The two items under II.D. were discussed next.)

D. Department of Defense

1. CFA 23/SEP/93-7, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Screening for existing gates and guardhouse.

2. CFA 23/SEP/93-8, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Temporary construction access for interior renovation.

Mr. Carson said the first project was for screening and upgrading security at existing gates, and the second was for cutting through a wall at the east terrace so that trucks could get in to carry out the renovation work being done in the Pentagon basement. He showed the sites for both projects, pointing out the location of the gates and the east terrace.

Harriet Ross from the Pentagon and architect Peter Feibelman from URS were introduced to explain the need for the temporary access. There were no objections and the project was approved.

Alan Rider, chief architect at DMJM - 3D/I, explained the screening for the security equipment at the various Pentagon gates. He said security had been strengthened in response to recent events, and this submission was for screening to improve the appearance of the entrances. Fences and gates would be screened by tall hedges, planters filled with juniper would be used around the guardhouses, and other planting added as necessary for appearance. In answer to the Chairman's question, Mr. Rider said the parking lot would also be screened. A second means of improving the appearance of the security barriers would be to paint them a dark bronze color, much like the Metro stations.

Again, there were no objections and the project was approved. Exhibit D

(Items under II.C. were discussed next.)

C. Department of the Army, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. CFA 23/SEP/93-3, Ft. Myer, Virginia. Building 246. Renovation of barracks. The Assistant Secretary said this project concerned the renovation of an historic barracks. The proposal was to take off a later front porch and replace it with one like the original, to remove exterior air conditioning equipment and clean up the area generally, and to restore the utilitarian courtyard for use as a recreational area. He introduced architect Joan Scharnberg from Einhorn, Yaffee & Prescott. Ms. Scharnberg showed drawings and explained her project. There were no objections and it was approved. Exhibit E

2. CFA 23/SEP/93-4, Ft. Myer, Virginia. Logistics Support Facility. Design development. (Previous: CFA 21/JAN/93-4.)

3. CFA 23/SEP/93-4, Ft. Myer, Virginia. Vehicle Maintenance Facility. Design development. (Previous: CFA 21/JAN/93-5.)

Mr. Carson recalled that the Commission had approved the concept designs for these two facilities, but had requested minor changes and perspective drawings showing more realistic views from sensitive vantage points, including Arlington Cemetery. He showed an aerial photograph, pointing out the location of each project and also existing buildings that

would be removed. He then introduced architect Michael Brennan.

Mr. Brennan reviewed the projects, showing drawings and photographs of existing conditions and the proposed new development, and then showed new perspective drawings which gave a more accurate view of what the visibility of the structures would be--particularly roofs and parking lots--after the landscaping was in place. He added that the development on the Vehicle Maintenance Site had actually been reduced. He noted that the Commission had also asked for a restudy of the facades of this facility and he showed revised drawings, pointing out the changes, which concerned the canopies particularly.

Mr. Carson said comprehensive landscape drawings had also been received, and the staff was satisfied that they met the concerns and requirements of the Commission. There were no questions for Mr. Brennan, and the final drawings for both facilities were unanimously approved. Exhibit E

4. CFA 23/SEP/93-6, Walter Reed Army Medical Center. New guardhouse and realignment of the Butternut Street entrance. Preliminary design. Mr. Martinez said this project involved replacing the existing guardhouse, adding a bus shelter and widening the entrance; he introduced Donald Clark, assistant manager for planning at Walter Reed, to make the presentation.

Mr. Clark said the present entrance was very narrow and frequently congested, especially because of the bus traffic, and the guardhouse had been criticized as appearing to be temporary and out of character with the surrounding facilities. He showed photographs of the area and then described the proposed changes. The roadway would be widened and the turning radius at the entrance softened so vehicles could swing in easily. There would be a new brick guardhouse, designed in a style compatible with the old buildings, with planters in the front and rear. The widening would require moving the existing gate posts, but the same composition would be retained. There would also be a new brick bus stop shelter, complementing the guardhouse in style. Roofs would be grey, simulated slate. Mr. Clark said the architects were Beck, Howell & Parsons.

The members were pleased with the design, and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit F

(The Commission then returned to the District of Columbia Government items not yet discussed.)

E. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and
Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

b. S.L. 93-108, 2610 Rock Creek Drive, N.W.,
S.L. 93-109, 2801 Normanstone Drive, N.W., S.L. 93-110, 2815
Normanstone Drive, N.W. Woodland Limited Partnership. Three
new houses and landscaping. Permit. (Previous: S.L. 93-48,
CFA 18/FEB/93.) The Assistant Secretary said this submission
was for final approval of the working drawings for the houses
and for the landscaping plan, for which the Commission had
previously given concept approval. He noted the presence of
the owner, Mr. Brandt, the architect, Mr. Banigan, and the
landscape architect, Ms. Maneval. Mr. Myer said the
landscaping, character of the houses, and the disposition of
the houses on the site did conform to the previous approval
and the requirements of the court order of 1989. There was no
discussion and the final drawings were unanimously approved.

Exhibit C

d. S.L. 93-123, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201
East Capitol Street, S.W. Sign program. Concept design. Mr.
Martínez introduced architect Andrew Stevenson to explain the
proposals. Mr. Stevenson said the Folger was in the process
of greatly expanding its visitor programs and had found that
the main entrance lobby at the west end of the building on
East Capitol Street was too small to accommodate the increased
number of visitors in addition to researchers and staff.
Therefore, the east entrance had been designated for visitors
and the west for scholars and staff. To make this clear, new
signs were required. The project would also include a new
handicapped entrance sign at the alley curb cut on 2nd Street
and a freestanding framework for banners announcing programs
and exhibitions to be placed at an angle close to the sidewalk
near the visitors' entrance. The existing kiosk and signs
would be removed.

Mr. Stephenson showed three alternative designs by
Staples & Charles for the entrance signs; they were columns
varying from 2 feet-4 inches to 4 feet in height and from 2 to
3 feet across. The first choice would be marble with incised
lettering matching that on the building, or with the lettering
on aluminum plaques attached to the stone. If cost did not
permit the use of marble, Mr. Stevenson said the signs would
be of another material painted to match the building. There
would also be 10 by 14-inch plaques at the side of each
entrance door, giving further information. Mr. Stevenson said
he hoped no further signs would be necessary, but if the need
were felt, he asked for the Commission's opinion on placing a
low sign, about 4 by 8 feet, in the plantings at the corner of
2nd and East Capitol streets. The members said they would not
object to such a sign if necessary, but they would want to see

the design before giving any approval. There was no further discussion, and the concept design for the signs presented was approved. Exhibit C

e. Appendix I. The Appendix was approved without objection.

2. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix II. The Appendix was approved without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton".

Charles H. Atherton,
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
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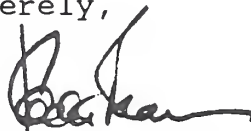
EXHIBIT A

1 October 1993

Dear Mr. Reilly:

During its meeting of 23 September 1993, the Commission reviewed and approved the overall concept design for additions to the existing Bonsai Pavilion complex at the National Arboretum. The members understand that the new International and Chinese exhibits will very nearly complete the master plan for the complex. Since the design appears to be in flux with respect to the proposed glass roof, the choice of materials and general detailing, the Commission will expect to see the final design prior to completion of contract drawings. Our next meetings are scheduled for 21 October and 18 November. As always, the staff is available should questions arise in the interim.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Edward Reilly, Chief
Real Property Management Branch
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1443

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1 October 1993

EXHIBIT B

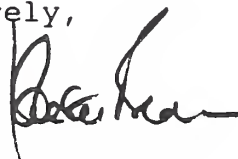
Dear Ms. Sterne:

The Commission reviewed designs for the proposed Department of Veterans Affairs' Child Development Center at a location near the entrance to the D.C. Medical Center on First Street and Michigan Avenue, N.W. during its meeting 23 September 1993. The Commission is not prepared to approve the design as submitted.

There are two aspects of concern: the placement of the structure at a diagonal to the adjacent streets and the rigid geometry of its plan. Further study is recommended both with respect to the orientation of the building as well as to its rectilinear plan, character and scale. The Commission strongly suggests that a more varied floor plan and silhouette can be achieved without compromising safety requirements.

We look forward to reviewing a revised scheme whenever it is prepared. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Judith A. Sterne
Contracting Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Acquisition and Material Management
Washington, D.C. 20420

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBITS

23 September 1993

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 93-107	Rear 201 17th Street, N.W. Organization of American States La Casita	Alterations to carriage house - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of restoration and renovation of OAS La Casita building. For cupola, request use of alternate proposal shown on drawings: repair of existing element. Proposed scalloped trim is not recommended. Request further study of window and door alterations, especially large window on 18th Street facade, which may have historical significance.

S.L. 93-108	2610 Rock Creek Drive, N.W. Woodland Limited partnership Single family dwelling	New house and landscaping - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for three new houses reviewed and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts during its 23 September 1993 meeting. Working drawings conform to approved concept submission, (S.L. 93-48). Erect on-site material samples for review and approval by the Commission of Fine Arts. See letter to Hampton Cross dated 1 October 1993.

S.L. 93-109	2801 Normanstone Drive, N.W. Woodland Limited Partnership Single family dwelling	New house and landscaping - permit
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ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for three new houses reviewed and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts during its 23 September 1993 meeting. Working drawings conform to approved concept submission, (S.L. 93-48). Erect on-site material samples for review and approval by the Commission of Fine Arts. See letter to Hampton Cross dated 1 October 1993.

23 September 1993

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 93-110	2815 Normanstone Drive, N.W. Woodland Limited Partnership Single family dwelling	New house and landscaping - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for three new houses reviewed and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts during its 23 September 1993 meeting. Working drawings conform to approved concept submission, (S.L. 93-48). Erect on-site material samples for review and approval by the Commission of Fine Arts. See letter to Hampton Cross dated 1 October 1993.

S.L. 93-123	201 East Capitol Street, S.E. Trustees of Amherst College Folger Library	Signs - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to concept for proposed sign program including free-standing information, entrance and handicapped access signs. Submit permit application for review when ready.

S.L. 93-104	3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W. The Republic of Italy Chancery	New Building - conceptual
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ACTION: No objection to the revised concept design for the proposed embassy building and grounds at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Whitehaven Street adjacent to Rock Creek Park. The landscape design is greatly improved and will be further refined. Consideration should be given to the pedestrian overlook from Whitehaven Street, as well as exterior lighting and paving surfaces. Request additional review of complex as design develops.

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EXHIBIT C-1

1 October 1993

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

It was a great pleasure to see you at our meeting on the 23rd of September.

My colleagues and I are delighted with Piero Sartogo's design for the new embassy, especially with respect to the truly significant shift in the treatment of the landscape. Visiting the site for the second time and having had several months to consider the design, the members of the Commission expressed their enthusiastic support of the project and the architect's abilities. An important lesson has been learned; distinguishing between a fortress, an office building and a civic edifice requires extraordinary skill. This has lead several of us to the conclusion that Mr. Sartogo has extraordinary skill, and well might exercise his own discrètion in the final refinements. The Commission will be pleased to review the design as refinements continue.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

His Excellency, Boris Biancheri
Ambassador of Italy
1601 Fuller Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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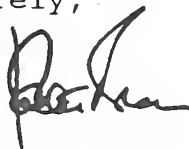
1 October 1993

EXHIBIT D

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

During its meeting of 23 September 1993, the Commission reviewed and approved two projects in the ongoing renovation of the Pentagon. The first submission includes painting the existing security fences and gates at the south and east entrances and adding landscape materials for screening. The second submission provides for a temporary paved staging area for construction equipment and materials and breaking through the existing stone retaining wall of the east terrace at Jefferson Davis Highway. The members understand that plans for the restoration of the site and terrace wall, along with anticipated future alterations, will be brought to their attention at the appropriate time. The staff is available should questions arise in the interim.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Elbert R. Humphrey
Director, Management Division
Pentagon Renovation and Planning Office
Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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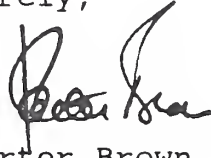
1 October 1993

EXHIBIT E

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

During its meeting of 23 September 1993, the Commission reviewed and approved three projects for Fort Myer: the renovation of barracks Building 246, the Logistics Support Facility, and the two structures proposed for the Vehicle Maintenance Facility. Noting that all three projects included landscape plans as major elements, the Commission encourages this trend with respect to future proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", is written over the typed name.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Armstrong, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Military Programs
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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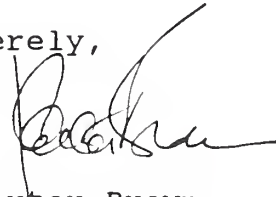
1 October 1993

EXHIBIT F

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Commission reviewed and approved the alterations to the entrance to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Butternut Street, N.W. at its meeting 23 September 1993. The proposed brick guard station and bus stop shelter are a welcome improvement over existing conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", written over a horizontal line.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Armstrong, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Military Programs
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

